With assistance from DANIDA, the Government has also proposed to implement the Revised National TB Programme is 14 districts of the State over a period of 5 years with the objective of achieving a cure rate of 85% against the current national average of 30%.

Sale of Spurious medicines in Delhi

*459. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether duplicate and spurious medicines are being sold by chemists in Delhi without any let or hinderance in collusion with the concerned Government Officials jeopardising the lives of the innocent and gullible people;

(b) whether surprise raids are conducted periodically to detect and apprehend the culprits who indulge in such inhuman and henious crimes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) According to the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, such instances have not come to notice involving any collusion.

(b) Yes Sir.

*During the period 1996—98, 2251 inspections were carried out on Drugs and Consmetics firms and 9195 inspections were carried out on sales premises in Delhi. Out of these 136 samples were reported as not of standard quality. 2 among them were reported as spurious. In both cases, prosecution has been filed in the Court of Law against the defaulters.

*1339 special inspections to detect various contraventions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules including sale/manufacture of spurious drugs were carried out during 1996—98.

*Purchase survey samples of drugs from retail chemists located in Delhi are also picked up through watchers of the Deptt. and the presence of active ingredients checked for follow-up action to be initiated in the case of deficiencies.

In all these cases, in case any infringement of the rules is found, including irregularities, appropriate action is taken under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above, the question does not arise.

Vigilance inquiry into Malpractices of Red Cross Society

*460. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Statesman, dated the 11th February, 1998, under the heading "Money is thicker than blood at Red Cross";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whehter the Vigilance Inquiry set up to enquire into the the matter has since submitted its report; and, if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been enquired into. The Indian Red Cross Society has reported that legal opinion has been sought before further action is initiated against the offenders.